

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NEW DE 03615 291639 Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3446

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 3615

EXDIS

FOR SISCO FROM MOYNIHAN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, EFIN, MILI, IN, CE

SUBJ: DEPSEC VISIT SOUTH ASIA

REF: STATE 51636

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH CALLED ME IN LATE TODAY TO DISCUSS YOUR FORTHCOMING VISIT. MY NOTES READ ABOUT AS FOLLOWS: HE VERY MUCH LOOKS FORWARD TO THIS VISIT. IS VERY HAPPY ABOUT IT. HE PERSONALLY FEELS A SPECIAL PLEASURE IN THAT HE KNEW DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH IN BONN AND HAS THE HIGHEST RESPECT FOR THE WISE WAY IN WHICH HAS HANDLED DIFFICULT SITUATIONS SUCH AS BERLIN. HE IS A MAN OF GREAT WISDOM. THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IS ALSO VERY HAPPY, AND LOOKING FORWARD TO FULL TALKS. HE, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, FEELS THIS WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO BEHIND SOME OF THE USEFUL GENERALITIES WHICH HE AND I HAVE EXCHANGED IN RECENT WEEKS AND REALLY HAVE A LOOK AT SPECIFICS. HOW DO YOU SEE SUCH AND SUCH A SITUATION, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF OUR VIEW. IF WE FIND WE SEE EYE TO EYE ON A GIVEN MATTER WE CAN THEN LOOK TO COOPERATION AT MANY LEVELS, NOT JUST DIPLOMATIC. IF WE FIND WE DO NOT AGREE THEN WE WILL EACH LOOK UPON THE OTHER'S POSITION WITH THE FULLEST SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING. YES, WE SHOULD HAVE FULL TOUR D' HORIZON.

2. NEXT, HE RAISED THE MATTER OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S AVAILABILITY. SHE IS LEAVING NEW DELHI FOR SRI LANKA ON THE MORNING
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 03615 291639 Z

OF FRIDAY, APRIL 27. THIS IS THE DAY WE PROPOSED TO MEET WITH HER AS WELL AS OTHER OFFICIALS. HE ASKED COULD YOU NOT COME EARLIER. I SAID I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET HERE BY MID AFTERNOON ON THURSDAY. (YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT TWENTY PAST SIX.) HE WENT ON ABOUT PROBLEMS IN PARLIAMENT AND SUCH AND THEN SAID THAT WHAT THEY WOULD REALLY LIKE WOULD BE FOR YOU TO ARRIVE BEFORE NOON ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 25.

3. I SUPPOSE THERE COULD BE SOME MANEUVERING HERE -- GETTING YOU TO COME TO INDIA BEFORE PAKISTAN OR SOMETHING OF THAT SORT -- BUT I AM NOT ENTIRELY SURE. HER VISIT TO SRI LANKA IS QUITE GENUINE, THE SCHEDULE HAVING BEEN SET SOME TIME AGO. ALSO, THIS WILL BE THE WEEK OF THE FINANCE BILL, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, AND LIKELY TO BE BUSY IN PARLIAMENT. AND SO I DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO SAY SAVE THAT I WOULD GET TO YOU FORTHWITH.

4. AS A SIDEBAR I BROUGHT UP THE NEWS FROM WASHINGTON THAT SHULTZ AND CHAV HAD AGREED TO COMMENCE TALKS ON RUPEES. I PUT IT TO HIM, AS I HAVE DONE TO THE PRIME MINISTERS SECRETARY P. N. DHAR, THAT A NEW AMBASSADOR IS ASIASTING ASSET, AND THAT IF ANYTHING SERIOUS IS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IT WILL HAVE BE QUICKLY BEFORE THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN MY NAME BACK HOME. I MENTIONED THAT I HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE FINANCE SECRETARY G. P. KAUL WHO HAD VOLUNTEERED THAT THE MATTER COULD BE DEALT WITH IN TWO MONTHS. I REMINDED HIM THAT WE HAD JUST FINISHED FOUR YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE STATUS OF OUR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND THAT IF WE LET THE LAWYERS GET HOLD OF THIS COMING AFFAIR, THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD OUTLAST THE LIFE OF THE FORTY YEAR LOANS. I THEN GOT SERIOUS AND SAID THAT I HOPED THIS WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY BOTH PARTIES AS A POLITICAL MATTER TO BE RESOLVED AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND THAT WHILST I WOULD WELCOME WHATEVER RESOLUTION EMERGES, I WAS NOT PERSONALLY VERY MUCH CONCERNED TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT THAT WOULD ONLY BE OF BENEFIT TO THE THIRD PRESIDENT FROM NOW, THAT I HAD BEEN SENT HERE BY PRESIDENT NIXON AND THAT I WANTED TO SEE AN AGREEMENT THAT WILL ENHANCE INDO AMERICAN RELATIONS DURING HIS TERM IN OFFICE. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AGREED, THE WHILE MARVELLING AT THE INDOMINATABLE " CAN DO" SPIRIT OF THE YANKS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 NEW DE 03615 291639 Z

5. I THEN TOLD HIM THAT IF THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES DO NOT
GET US THE REMAINS OF THE AMERICAN AIRMEN DISCOVERED TWO WEEKS
AGO OVER NEAR BURMA A DAMN SIGHT FASTER THAN THEY SEEM INTER-
ESTED IN DOING I WAS GOING TO HIRE A JEEP AND GO UP THERE MY-
SELF AND WOULD AWAIT THE PERSONAL INSTRUCTION OF THE PRIME
MINISTER THAT THE TERRITORY WAS OFF LIMITS TO ACCREDITED
DIPLOMATS. THE PLANE WENT DOWN IN 1945. A LOCAL NEWSPAPER
PRINTED THE NAMES OF TWO OF THE MEN TWO WEEKS AGO. THE GOI HAS
TAKEN THE DEFACTO POSITION THAT FAR FROM BEING IMPATIENT WITH
THEIR BUREAUCRACY WE SHOULD MARVEL AT THE FREEDOM OF
THEIR PRESS.

MOYNIHAN

SECRET

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